



CAMP BRANCH CLOSES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

At 10 p.m. on February 21, 2009, the final shift locked the gate to Camp Branch (CDW). They left behind them a facility that had served as a prison camp since 1994. With a declining prison population and continuing success with prisoner re-entry and prison diversion programs, the camp, like several before it, became obsolete.

For the employees who worked at the facility, it was difficult seeing the facility close. Deputy Warden Paul Klee reflected on the closure.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the staff who worked at Camp Branch. It has been my pleasure and an honor to have crossed paths with these staff. Many good friendships were made by staff working at Camp. Staff shared a common bond to provide sound correctional services every day. While staff experienced their share of fine accomplishments, they all went through their share of grief. Through it all, staff stuck together.



Pictured from left: Officer Sprague, Officer Ferris and Sergeant Scheidler.

"The old cliché is true...when one door closes, another door opens. With the closing of CDW, new and exciting doors will open for staff. New friendships will be established and new challenges will be presented.

"As state employees, we all realize the serious budget deficit facing Michigan. For this reason alone, Corrections as we know it has to be changed. I challenge each of us to embrace these changes. One thing that I have learned over the past 30 years in corrections is that staff are very resilient. We will step up to the challenges of the future while continuing to be professional and providing outstanding correctional services." - Paul Klee

Deerfield Correctional Facility is slated to close by April 1, and Scott Correctional Facility will close May 1. With \$120 million in proposed cuts to the budget in FY 2010, the Department will likely face more facility closures in the near future. Employees will be asked to acclimate to new facilities and new fellow employees as the Department continues to right-size its prison system.

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LEARNING SITE PROJECT WILL EVALUATE FULL SCALE MPRI PROCESS

To support an ongoing effort to bring the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) Model up-to-scale, the MPRI Model will be fully implemented at Ionia's Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC) and its community partner site, Kent County.

This up-to-scale demonstration, called the ReEntry Learning Site Project, will include risk-based assessments and

programming to ensure that prisoners have the necessary skills to be successful upon re-entry. The ReEntry Learning Site Project will be reviewed by an independent evaluator to track offender outcomes and learn about effective practices.

To test the core aspects of the MPRI Model, a sample population of 240 prisoners from Kent County will be transferred to IBC where they will participate in the full MPRI Model. This Learning Site Project will begin this month, utilizing both Department and community resources to provide intensive, evidence-based programming that is

responsive to each offender's specific risks and needs.

Staff participating in the Learning Site Project will receive specialized training to enhance their interaction skills with offenders. These skills focus

on motivating positive offender behavior and encouraging offender success. The Learning Site Project will also emphasize development and maintenance of positive family

connections during the offender's incarceration and throughout the transition process.

The best practices identified from the Learning Site Project will be incorporated into the broader MPRI implementation effort as the entire Department is brought up-to-scale by 2010.

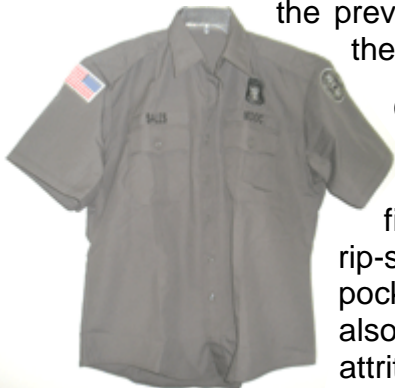
Prisoners across the state are being identified for transfer into the Learning Site Project.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Aneka Stewart at (517) 335-1416 or stewartat@michigan.gov.



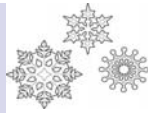
NEW UNIFORMS ENHANCE PROFESSIONALISM

Uniformed officers in the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) are getting a new look. They are being outfitted in new uniforms after a committee reviewed new designs and made a final recommendation. Materials and design are updated from the previous uniforms, which had not changed significantly since the early 1990's.



Changes to the new uniform shirt include a blended fabric for greater comfort and breathability, a cloth badge on the left chest, cloth name strips that replace the plastic name bars, a reverse field flag on the right shoulder, and grey epaulets. The pants are made of a rip-stop blend fabric with cargo pockets on either side and buttoned flapped pockets on each hip. An embroidered ball cap, jackets, sweaters, and coats also have new patches and MDOC logos. Uniforms will be replaced through attrition and established replacement schedules.





MENTORING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The Department is interested in hearing about employees who volunteer as mentors for youth and youth organizations. This could be such things as coaching, scouts, church groups or a mentoring organization such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Provide your agency name, the organization for which you volunteer and the number of years you have been mentoring. We are also interested in hearing about personal success stories from your mentoring experience. Please forward the requested information to Lance Schuhmacher - schuhmls@michigan.gov.



You can connect with mentoring organizations by calling the Michigan Community Service Commission at (517) 335-4295, calling 1-800-VOLUNTEER, or by visiting the website www.mentormichigan.org.

BLOOD DRIVES ARE VITAL TO OUR CITIZENS

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has always done a great job supporting the American Red Cross with blood drives throughout the Department. In the past year, correctional facilities, parole/probation offices and central office held over 75 blood drives, collecting over 2,200 usable pints of blood.

A central office employee commented on the importance of donating blood. He was a victim of kidney failure and needed seven pints of blood to make it through the life-threatening situation. His health is better after receiving a kidney transplant, and he personally thanks each person he sees wearing an "I gave blood today" sticker.

The American Red Cross estimates that over 8 million donors contribute more than 15 million units of blood each year. Each donation can be broken down into components, resulting in over 29 million transfused units each year to those in need.

Blood and blood products are used primarily in open heart procedures, newborn surgeries and transfusions, trauma patients, cancer treatments, blood transfusions and burn victim treatments.

Because blood is perishable and many components have to be used within days or weeks of their donation, units need to be donated every day. The American Red Cross estimates that over 38,000 units are donated nationally each day.



If you are a donor, keep up the great work. If you are thinking about becoming a donor, but haven't yet, visit the link below for more information about donating blood. In 15 minutes, you could save a life. Visit the American Red Cross to learn more today.

<http://www.givelife2.org/donor/faq.asp>

SCREENSAVER NEEDS NEW PICTURES

It's time to update the MDOC screensaver again. The theme this time will be "Michigan Wildlife." If you have a picture to share, please send an electronic copy to cordeljc@michigan.gov. Include your name, where you work, a description of the photo, type of wildlife, and where it was taken. We'll put the five best pictures on the screensaver!





GOING GREEN PART OF SUPER 8 INITIATIVE

As part of the One Great and Super 8 Initiative to improve state government and make changes within our agency that positively impact Michigan's citizens, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has chosen a Super 8 project that involves recycling education.

This project's focus is for the MDOC to make a "Go Green Business Pledge." The Department intends to work towards being an environmentally conscious business. We will kickoff with a recycling program at Grandview Plaza (newspapers/magazines, plastics, and glass) with plans to expand to include other MDOC offices and facilities. We will publicize and educate the department's employees on recycling opportunities, drop-off sites, and Go Green initiatives with greater focus on practicing recycling at home.

The City of Lansing has asked businesses to make a pledge to be more environmentally con-



REDUCE

RE-USE

RECYCLE

scious. Making this pledge and being one of the largest state departments will demonstrate the

Department's concern for environmental issues. Please help the MDOC "Go Green" for a healthier environment.

QUITTER'S CORNER

Rosanne Leland, the Department's Life Services Coordinator, recently interviewed Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility's Lisa English about quitting smoking.

FYI: When did you quit smoking?

English: "October 20, 2008."

FYI: For how long did you smoke?

English: "I smoked on and off for fourteen

years."

FYI: Why did you quit?

English: "Well I would have to say the number one reason is that my daughter was diagnosed with leukemia in March of 2007. The other two reasons were the announcement of the Department's Tobacco Cessation Initiative in February of 2009, and smoking was getting too expensive! I also was beginning to feel like I stuck out like a sore thumb as more often it was not socially acceptable to smoke."



Lisa English

FYI: How do you feel since you quit?

English: "I can breathe better, my skin feels and looks better, and I am certain that my internal organs are improving as well. Added benefits are my relationship with my husband has improved; he is much more supportive, we don't argue as much, and we are saving money!"

FYI: In what situations did you find it most difficult to stop smoking?

English: "In the car. It was like I had to do something with my hands while driving. Also at work it was difficult in high stress situations such as when I had a confrontation with staff, or when I had to de-escalate prisoners, and prisoner fights."

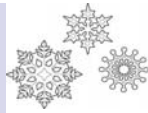
FYI: Who/what helped you stop smoking?

English: "My family, friends and the IBC Administration. The IBC Administration was instrumental, very supportive. I received very encouraging and supportive emails from Warden McKee, Deputy Schooley, Deputy Stoddard, and ADW Johnson.

"Michigan Tobacco Quitline program also helped me quit. They provided me with a personal coach that helped me set a 'quit date.' My coach also gave me five free confidential counseling phone sessions that were very supportive and helped me set goals so I would succeed. Two of the counseling sessions were before my 'quit date' and three were

See **QUIT**, page 8





FOR THE HEALTH OF IT: ESP IS THERE FOR YOU

The daylight hours are finally getting longer, making it a little easier to think that you may occasionally see the sun. Still for many of us it's hard to get out of the winter doldrums. We have been in hibernation mode for the past few months and need an extra boost. If you're feeling that way, EPS can help!

If your personal stress management plan needs a jump start, we invite you to use the Employee Service Program's Systematic Stress Management Program, available online at www.michigan.gov/esp. Take a few minutes to review the program's seven modules, customize your own personal stress management program, and protect yourself from the harmful effects that can result from too much stress.



Your Employee Service Program is available to assist you between the hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can contact us at 800-521-1377 for free and confidential services.

EMR WILL ENHANCE PRISONER HEALTH CARE

One of the exciting activities taking place in the Bureau of Health Care Services (BHCS) is the implementation of our new Electronic Medical Record (EMR). NextGen Healthcare Information Systems, Inc. was selected by the Health Care Quality Improvement Team (HCQIT) to replace the existing product. The new EMR will provide health care with greater access to information, allow us to identify best practices and opportunities for quality improvements, and generate reports that enable better monitoring of our programs. In addition, the EMR will become web-

based within the next two years, which will make it even more accessible to health care providers.

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) report pointed out that the existing system was unwieldy and recommended going back to paper documentation. While paper documentation was not a feasible option, it was apparent that the lack of health data was causing problems in our ability to evaluate vendor performance and enforce contract compliance. This new EMR will open the door to a much better environment for those working in prison health care in Michigan. Personnel working at the facility level will now have access to more health information, and will experience less frustration in retrieving that information.



Implementing NextGen will be done through a two-phase approach. Phase I involves the migration of our current data to the NextGen product and creation of workgroups to review the templates and options that are available in NextGen to determine best practices and develop a user manual. Phase II will take place after the migration is complete and will include testing and training facility staff. While our team is still establishing specific timeframes it is anticipated that the new EMR will be fully functional by mid-2009.

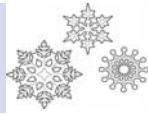
The new EMR will allow us to monitor and improve quality because the data will be available and accessible in a manner that will allow us to support best practice programs throughout the correctional health care system.

For more information, contact BHCS at: 517-373-3629 or zellerl2@michigan.gov



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour This weekend. Daylight savings Time starts Sunday at 2 a.m.





A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



It's time to take a different perspective on state employment. As we were growing up, many of us saw state service as stable employment. Once you were in, there were no layoffs, no furloughs, no pay cuts, or slashing of benefits. It was, after all, the State of Michigan. They collected and distributed all of the money, and for state employees, that meant eating their slice of the pie first.

Then came the late 1970s, the oil embargo and the recession of the early 1980s. The exodus from Michigan had begun. Once proud cities - manufacturers of gasoline-powered steel and glass on wheels became rusting memories of a bye-gone era. Michigan has been losing ground in percentage of total U.S. population since an all-time high in 1970 when it was 4.4%. Today it is about 3.2%. Nearly 50% of the decline is attributable to exodus. People are simply moving out of Michigan and our population growth remains flat when compared with other states.

Declining manufacturing and shrinking personal incomes caused declining tax revenues, putting the state worker's slice of pie in jeopardy. I started with the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1994. The second wave of hiring was on. The prison industrial complex was supplanting manufacturing. Whether by accident or on purpose, we were in essence creating a human warehousing industry. For a while it worked. Corrections brought jobs to cities in need and became the biggest state department, employing nearly 1/3 of all state employees and spending approximately \$2 billion a year.

Since 2002 there have been over \$460 million in cuts to the corrections budget. By May 1, the Department will have closed seven correctional facilities in this decade, re-opening only one. Several camps have closed and all the corrections centers have been shuttered. In 2008, the wheels came completely off the economic train. Banks faltered, credit contracted, the housing market tanked, oil prices went sky high and automakers balanced on a razor-thin edge, leaning toward total and decimating collapse. What does that mean to you and me? It means that the stable state employment of the previous generation no longer exists. It means that there is someone out there looking for ways to cut the state budget, and by extension your job. I'm not saying that's good or bad. It's just the reality of life in Michigan right now. People want to educate their children, improve roads and infrastructure, create new parks, provide programming for those in need, yet still feel safe. They don't want to spend more on prisons, rather they want prison reforms that reduce prison costs.

What's the end game? I don't know. With \$263 million in savings recommended in the MDOC by one report and up to \$800 million in another, there is no longer a sense of job stability within state government. A projected \$120 million cut is likely in the FY 2010 corrections budget bill and it appears that a leaner corrections agency is on the horizon, along with a leaner state government. There are no current indicators that the right-sizing of state government is going to stop any time soon. Don't panic, just be aware. Be ready. Stay educated. Find your passion and keep your résumé updated, because until something comes along to replace the automobile industry and the corrections industrial complex here in Michigan, it's going to be pretty bleak. Entitlement in state government has officially been laid to rest. That's the new reality.





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



UPDATE: COWORKER WILL SAVE A LIFE THROUGH KIDNEY DONATION

Late last year, FYI reported on the health crisis that Resident Unit Officer (RUO) Dee McBee and his family were dealing with. Their struggle to find an organ donor for their son gripped G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility (JCF). The facility held a bake sale and basically put out a “full court press” to help the family. McBee’s wife, daughter, and two sons have a rare kidney disease that will eventually require each of them to need a kidney transplant.

After an outpouring of support and compatibility testing by so many caring people, JCF is excited and thankful that one of McBee’s coworkers, Officer Gary Moss, will donate one of his kidneys for the McBee’s oldest son. Moss, who is not a blood relative to McBee, was identified as a donor and through his selfless act, will literally save the life of McBee’s oldest son. The surgery is scheduled for March.

The McBee Family and G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility want to thank Gary and his family. Words alone cannot express how this act of giving will impact the McBee family in such a positive way, giving their son a new life.

BARAGA LIBRARIAN’S PEN PROVES PROLIFIC

Unless you are completely detached from the field of corrections, you have probably run across the name “Joseph Bouchard” in your readings about contemporary issues in corrections. It would be hard not to. Bouchard, a Librarian at Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility, has recently written his 300th corrections-related article.

Bouchard was featured in a recent electronic issue of Corrections.com’s electronic magazine, or e-zine. He says that he didn’t have a goal to be a writer, it just turned out that way. Bouchard says that he started with a piece about contraband in the library and continued writing about one article a month. He enjoys writing and it comes natural to him.

Like many writers, Joe is driven by events and life’s happenings. He says that sometimes he writes about a problem to help find solutions, and there are times when he’s the problem. In a recent interview with Corrections.com, Bouchard shares several tips for aspiring writers: Check with your chain of command; Issue the proper disclaimers; Attack ideas, not people; Be honest and thorough; When you’re criticized, learn from it rather than retreat from it; and have fun with it! If it’s not fun and you’re not doing it for the right reasons, it becomes a task.

To read the interview with Joe Bouchard in Corrections.com, please visit the link below.

[http://www.corrections.com/news/article/20627?
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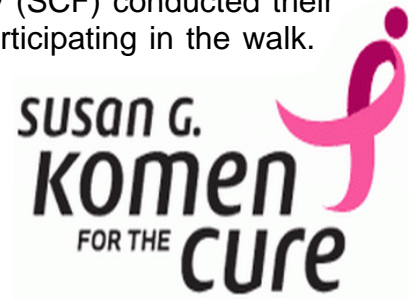


PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



PRISONERS WALK FOR A CURE

Late last autumn women prisoners of Robert Scott Correctional Facility (SCF) conducted their second annual breast cancer walk-a-thon, with about 250 prisoners participating in the walk. The prisoners at SCF are passionate about finding a cure for breast cancer and they are very supportive of the importance of research that helps save lives. Collectively the women walked a total of nearly 650 miles, donating \$418.50 to the "Susan G. Komen Foundation" for breast cancer research. The prisoners should be commended for helping find a cure!



QUITTER'S CORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

after my 'quit date.' They sent me lozenges which were paid for by my insurance company. I was also sent a ton of information on coping mechanisms, including how to get support from others."

FYI: What has your life been like since you stopped smoking?

English: "I am a lot freer. I can go places and do things and not worry about where I can go to smoke a cigarette."



FYI: How do you cope at home, at work, and in social situations since you stopped smoking?

English: "When I have the desire to smoke I find other things to do (not eating of course!) like staying active, being involved in activities with my daughter, keeping my mind strong, relying more on myself, and breathing deeply. It is hard to quit but it is doable!"

FYI: What message would you like to give your coworkers who are trying to stop?

English: We are an amazing department, having jumped many hurdles professionally and personally. As a Department we are faced with so many daily challenges that we sometimes take our own health for granted, offering ourselves justifications. With the negativity we face daily, we owe it to ourselves to be healthy and happy! I urge and challenge all the amazing MDOC employees to stop the negative effects they can control in their lives, be it tobacco, stress - whatever. You, your family and your work life will only get better. I promise."

NOTES AND IDEAS

If you know someone who has done something special for others or who has made a positive impact in the life of someone else, please send the information to FYI at cordeljic@michigan.gov.

Also, if you have ideas about how to save money while keeping Michigan's citizens and our employees safe, contact Lance Schuhmacher at schuhmls@michigan.gov.

